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WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Untitled

Mr. Jeff Killelea

It strikes me as a bit peculiar that in this day and age with our incessant desire to create a greener planet that certain agencies would go so far as to create such a confusing and restrictive act.

Its unfortunate that still in this day and age that most environmentalist view legitimate salvage yards as some sort of stigma. Its as though its a foregone conclusion that were all beer drinking hillbillies who just take our old oil and mercury switches and put them in 50 gallon drums only to be buried on the family farm.

I won't use wreckless wrecking yards in my argument for why I oppose these amendments to the Storm Water Permit debacle. Everyone one is aware that they exist, everyone knows that very little is done to stop them, thus making legit salvage yards the scapegoats for the EPA.

I would however like to give some statistics. I know every government agency just thrives on statistics.

In our salvage yard alone in the last year we processed appx. 2000 cars..heres what that translates into.

2250 gallons of oil..most of which is then reused in our CLEAN BURN oil furnace, or picked up by a certified recycler.

1500 gallons of antifreeze, which also is recycled either in the form of being resold or sent to a certified recycler.

500 mercury switches. Now we all know how much havoc can be wreaked if one of those mercury switches were to just be tossed into a body of water. To think last year alone we prevented that from happening 500 times.

You hear alot about CFC's and how bad they are for the ozone, global warming and all that fun stuff. We eliminated roughly 1200 lbs of freon into our recovery unit. I don't know about you..but to me that means I don't feel the need to have to bump up the SPF of my sunblock up to 98, especially knowing were one of hundreds of yards doing our part.

Then there's always those valuable catalytic converters and the precious metals inside them. A 1000 plus cats were meticulously removed and sold to a certified recycler.

I don't know how many aluminum and steel wheels we recycled, but you can add that to the 100's of pounds of cancerous causing lead weights we removed, as well as several more 100's of copper wire removed.

We do our part to keep this great state of Washington clean and green. We do not stand alone in this battle for a cleaner planet. We are far from the largest salvage yard in the state. Yet just look at what we as a single yard have done. It would be nearly impossible to quantify the amounts of recyclable materials that are taken out of the environment by dedicated salvage yards and what the environmental impact would be if these people were left to their own demise with these materials.

Please take these numbers into consideration, if even half of the salvage yards in Washington end up being shut down due to the fact that they can't conform to the strangling proposed restrictions, it would be detrimental not only the environment but the economy as a whole.

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